

past year throwing policy spaghetti against the wall, trying to get something to stick. The American people, of course, aren't interested in what he has to offer. Nevertheless, he persists, pivoting when he needs to recapture the mainstream media's attention.

Meanwhile, over in Russia, Putin is enjoying every single minute of this. He is probably laughing. He knows he can be as belligerent as he pleases because his most powerful and lethal adversary is totally distracted.

Today, I sent a letter to the White House, asking them to clarify the spin they have been putting out on our posture concerning Ukraine. Here is the problem I am trying to get to the bottom of.

On December 9, the Associated Press reported on a diplomatic phone call between Biden and the Ukrainian President. During the call, the White House allegedly made it clear that we support Ukrainian sovereignty. That is good. However, that report also revealed a supposed plan, concocted by the White House, to persuade Ukraine to cede territory—cede their territory—to Russia because it is currently controlled by Russian separatists. White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki has denied the latter. I still have some questions about what is going on behind the scenes.

History tells us that autocrats and thugs like Putin find their greatest power in the weaknesses of their adversaries. That is right. When they see weakness, they pounce. Strength is the only thing that deters them.

Have my colleagues across the aisle ever heard of "peace through strength"? Have they looked at that as a policy?

President Biden must summon the strength to stop playing political games for the cameras and confront this direct challenge to Ukraine's sovereignty. My Democratic colleagues must join him. This will require more than strong words. It does require action.

This year's yet-to-be-passed NDAA authorizes \$75 million in lethal assistance to Ukraine. It is time to pass this bill.

And I would add, that the fiscal year 2022 NDAA is the most bipartisan thing that has come out of the Senate all year.

It is a no-brainer. Let's get this done and not just for Ukraine, but also the future of Western Europe. That is also at stake.

The Biden administration must stand firm and reimpose meaningful sanctions on Nord Stream 2. This one pipeline will double the total capacity of Russian gas exports and hand even more economic leverage to the Kremlin. Why would we want to do that? Ukraine, on the other hand, will lose an estimated \$3 billion each year in transit fees.

Putin is weaponizing energy in Europe. Our partners in Ukraine are living under the constant threat of invasion, and the Biden administration is just sitting there and letting it happen.

So here we are, at the eleventh hour, Christmas is coming, and we are still waiting for Biden and the Democrats to do the job the American people elected them to do.

They have squandered an entire year trying to conjure up support for their disastrous socialist agenda. We are never going to get this time back, and the American people who are suffering are not going to get this year back.

But now is not the moment to just let things go. We can't afford weakness and spin, not when it comes to the economy, not when it comes to foreign policy, and certainly not when it comes to proving to the American people that there is someone in Washington watching out for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes, Senator TUBERVILLE for up to 10 minutes, and Senator PADILLA for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

TORNADO

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to talk about my friend Bob Dole, who was laid to rest last week. Before I do that, I want to just take a moment to express our heartfelt thoughts and sorrow at the loss of so many lives in more than a half dozen States, including Kentucky, where my sister and her family live; including Arkansas, where other friends live.

We just want the folks to know who are going through a really tough time and tough patch, that when we talk a lot about you are in our thoughts and our prayers, that you literally are, and it is not just words that we are saying. We hope and promise we will be there to help you going forward as you deal with all of this.

REMEMBERING ROBERT J. DOLE

Madam President, having said that, I just want to talk a bit about Bob Dole, as our Nation continues to mourn his loss and celebrate the life of one of the greatest of the "greatest generation." I rise today to add to the countless tributes benefiting the late, great Senator from Kansas, Bob Dole.

Born Robert Joseph Dole on July 22, 1922, in Russell, KS, Bob Dole grew up during a period known as the Dust Bowl in the American heartland, where his family, like so many others, struggled to pay rent and put food on their table.

Bob Dole was the star athlete in high school who wanted to pursue a career in medicine. He began his studies at the University of Kansas, but like many young Americans at the time, including my dad and uncles from West Virginia, like them, his plans were interrupted by the attack on Pearl Har-

bor and Hitler's army marching across Europe.

Bob Dole enlisted in the Army Reserve and was called up to Active Duty in 1943. Two years later, at the age of 21, as part of the 10th Mountain Division, Bob Dole was severely injured on the battlefield in Italy after bravely pulling a fellow soldier to safety. He sustained grave injuries to his spine, to his shoulder, to one of his hands, and by all accounts was left for dead on the battlefield. But Bob Dole, like the United States and our allies, didn't give up. He persevered.

Despite long odds of recovery, Bob never gave up and wouldn't take no for an answer. He spent 39 months—let me repeat that. He spent 39 months recovering in a hospital bed undergoing numerous surgeries. When doctors told him that he was partially paralyzed, he built a device—he built a device—to help him regain his strength and was able not only to stand upright but eventually to walk again and to run for office many, many times.

Bob Dole knew he was lucky to make it home. And the decades he spent in public service after sustaining his injuries, he dedicated much of his life to ensuring that our veterans, especially our fallen veterans during World War II, like my Uncle Bob, were honored and remembered for their sacrifices.

My Uncle Bob was my mom's youngest brother, one of those sailors who wasn't lucky enough to make it home. He died at the age of 19 in 1944 during a kamikaze attack in the Western Pacific on his aircraft carrier, the USS Suwannee. His body was never recovered. But his memory lives on, thanks in no small part to Senator Bob Dole's work to establish the World War II Memorial on the National Mall. And for that, my family, the Patton family on my mother's side, are forever grateful.

Though they never met, Bob Dole, like so many Americans of the "greatest generation," understood that my Uncle Bob made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and for the preservation of our democracy. That is why Senator Bob Dole spent so much of his time raising money for the World War II Memorial and why he spent so many Saturdays there, greeting veterans and thanking them for their service. This meant the world to those families, like mine, who lost a loved one during the war.

When Bob Dole was finally able to stand on his own two feet again, the town of Russell, KS, rallied around him and encouraged him to run for office. And he did.

After a short stint in local Kansas politics, Bob served in the U.S. House of Representatives for four terms before being elected to the Senate in 1968, the same year I was commissioned an ensign in the Navy.

For 35 years, Bob Dole proudly served the people of Kansas in Washington—here. His time in Congress, especially as a Senator, is really where his legacy and public service started to take